

REMARKS

Appended to this response is a change of correspondence address for this patent application. It appears that the office action was mailed to the prior address of the law firm of Harrington & Smith, LLP, and was apparently subsequently returned to the USPTO. Also, it is noted that there is a typographical error in the name of the firm. This is not understood, since the Notice of Publication of Application was mailed on 03/27/2003 to the correct address. In any event, the Examiner is respectfully requested to ensure that the records of the USPTO are updated so that future communications regarding this patent application will be timely received by Harrington & Smith, LLP at the address appearing below.

The allowance of claims 15-21 is noted with appreciation, as is the objection to dependent claims 7 and 14.

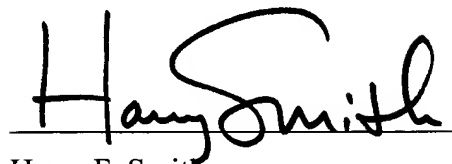
In order to facilitate a timely issuance of US Letters Patent, the subject matter of dependent claims 7 and 14 has been written into independent claims 1 and 8, respectively, and claims 7 and 14 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The application should thus be in condition to be passed to issue.

It is made of record that this amendment has been made simply to facilitate the issuance of US Letters Patent, and should not be construed as an express or an implied admission that the applicants are in agreement with the Examiner's rationale for rejecting claims 1-6 and 8-13. The Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to continue the prosecution to allowance of claims 1-6 and 8-13, and other claims that may be added as well.

If there is any remaining issue that would impede the timely allowance of the claims as currently presented the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue. An early notification of the allowability of claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-21 is earnestly solicited.

S.N.: 09/964,367
Art Unit: 2643

Respectfully submitted:



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Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

7/12/2006
Date

Clair F. Main
Name of Person Making Deposit